Redistricting Group Minutes

February 8, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.
Room 319 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Redistricting Group Members Present: Clegg (Chair), Bad Heart Bull, Brown, Cole, Connell, Dolan, Ferrara, Garcia, Heinle, Johnson, Kozak, Lickness, Massey, Metge, Peltola, Rubenstein, Schwarzkopf, Unni

Redistricting Group Members Absent: Cohen (excused), Gerdes, Lazarus (excused), Richardson, Sandberg (excused), Thaden (excused)

Also Present: Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney

Casey Carl, City Clerk

1. Roll Call

Chair Clegg called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. Adopt Agenda

Lickness moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Ferrara, Garcia, Gerdes, Lazarus, Massey, Richardson, Sandberg, Thaden.

3. Approve minutes of February 1, 2012

Heinle moved approval of the minutes of February 1, 2012. Seconded. Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Ferrara, Garcia, Gerdes, Lazarus, Massey, Richardson, Sandberg, Thaden.

4. Chair's Report

- a) An informational video about redistricting has been produced and is available on the redistricting website as well as the Charter Commission website.
- b) The Redistricting Working Group received bids from MTN to televise redistricting meetings and/or public hearings.
 - Connell moved to engage MTN to televise the Redistricting Group's public hearings. Seconded.
 - Adopted upon a voice vote.
 - Absent Cohen, Gerdes, Lazarus, Massey, Richardson, Sandberg, Thaden.
- c) Clegg summarized "Factors to Consider in Redistricting**":
 - 1. Population within 5% of the mean.
 - 2. Contiguous and compact, not more than twice as long as wide.

- 3. Where possible, lines shall follow the centerline of streets, avenues, alleys, and boulevards and, as nearly as practicable, shall run due east and west or north and south.
- 4. Keep communities of interest together whenever possible.
- 5. Subject to applicable law and the overriding principles of fairness and equity, change the boundaries of wards and park districts as little as possible.
 - ** All factors also subject to Voting Rights Act requirements and considerations.
- d) A proposed meeting timeline was included in each packet. Redistricting Group meetings will begin at 4 pm. Redistricting Group Operations Committee meetings will begin at 2 pm. All meetings will be noticed. If a meeting is not necessary, it will be cancelled.
- 5. Receive and file all public comments received since the February 1, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting and enter them into the official record

Peltola moved to receive and file all public comments received since the February 1, 2012 meeting. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Gerdes, Lazarus, Richardson, Sandberg, Thaden.

6. Review Proposed Draft Maps: Group input to update draft maps

The Redistricting Group discussed the proposed draft maps.

Park District Map

- District 2 is currently 5% under
- District 3 is currently 5% over
- The other districts are all currently within 5%
- District 2's south line was moved to include some of the Harrison and Bryn Mawr neighborhoods, causing District 4's population to decrease
- Downtown East neighborhood was moved from District 3 to District 4
- The above changes brought all districts within 5 percent
- Members were requested to review the Park District map before the next meeting and return with suggestions
- It was requested that a Park District map that includes street details, as well as indicating the park resources available within each district, be available at the next meeting

Downtown Ward

• The sample downtown ward map included Loring Park, Elliot Park, Downtown East, Downtown West, North Loop, Nicollet Island, East Bank, and the portion of Marcy Holmes near the river

 The Operations Committee had not attempted to balance the remaining wards in the sample map

The following issues were raised:

- A more even split straddling the river
- The northern and southern portions of Loring Park are very different from one another
- The North Loop neighborhood would like to be united

Ward Map 1

- McKinley neighborhood was moved from Ward 3 to Ward 4 giving Ward 4 sufficient population
- Hawthorne neighborhood was moved from Ward 3 to Ward 5 with Ward 5 remaining a majority-minority ward
- The Bottineau and Sheridan neighborhoods were added to Ward 1 and the Mid-City Industrial and a portion of the Como neighborhoods were moved to Ward 3
- University of Minnesota was added to Ward 3
- Ward 2 boundary was moved further west
- Changes to Wards 8, 9, and 10 occurred along the ward boundaries

The following issues were raised:

- The possibility of creating a minority-coalition ward (two or more recognized minority populations collectively adding up to over 50% of ward population) by combining portions of Wards 2, 6, and 9, which would create significant changes to other wards
- Whether combining wards to create a minority-coalition would deviate from the Redistricting Principals/Factors to Consider of changing the boundaries as little as possible (the City Attorney is looking into the Voting Rights Act)
- Keeping neighborhoods together while accomplishing the creation of minoritycoalition wards
- Creating something different through innovation
- Whether creating a minority-coalition ward could include the "Other" population group

Ward Map 2

- A portion of downtown on the west side of the river was added to Ward 3
- The University remained in Ward 2 (Downtown East and West)
- This map created more than one downtown ward
- This map is a work in progress and would not meet the 5% thresholds in all wards

The following issues were raised:

- Downtown as a community of interest and should be able to elect their own representative
- There is a need to define what is meant by "downtown" businesses or residents
- The geographic split between the two concentrations of residents in downtown
- Considering the proposed map submitted by the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting last week creating a minority opportunity ward in Ward 2
- Including consideration of American Indian and Hispanic populations when considering the creation of minority-coalition and minority-opportunity wards

A consensus was reached that the Operations Committee would further develop Ward Map 2, including Ward 3 crossing the river into downtown, and work to create a minority-coalition ward near South Minneapolis, as well as attempting to create additional minority-opportunity wards.

The Operations Committee will hold Work Sessions on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 319 City Hall and, if needed, on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 333.

Public Commentary

There was no one present wishing to address the Redistricting Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Peggy Menshek Council Committee Coordinator